



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY**  
John J. Barthelmes, Commissioner



***Division of Fire Safety***  
**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**  
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## **Investigation Protocol for Fires Suspected to Have Been Caused by Cigarette**

1/17/08

**Goal:** To determine if a cigarette was, or was not, compliant with NH state law for fire-safe cigarettes.

**Implement:** Use the following protocol for all fires where a cigarette may be initially suspected to have been involved in the ignition of the fire.

1. Determine origin of the fire.
2. Determine if a cigarette is a possible cause of the fire –  
    If “Yes”...use this protocol  
    If “No”... disregard this protocol
3. Physical Evidence
  - a. Determine if there is evidence of a cigarette at the point of origin.
  - b. Determine if there are cigarettes or cigarette packaging in the room of origin.
  - c. Determine if there are ashtrays or containers for cigarettes inside or outside the building.
  - d. Determine if there are cigarettes in the vehicles(s) of building occupants.
  - e. Determine if building occupants are in possession of cigarettes.
  - f. Identify brand-styles of cigarette.
  - g. Refer information to the Office of the NH State Fire Marshal using a  
    *Report of Suspected Cigarette Caused Fire*
4. Interviews
  - a. Determine how many smokers used the room of origin.
  - b. Determine brand-style preference and brand loyalty of smokers.
  - c. Determine where cigarettes were purchased.
  - d. Refer information to the Office of the NH State Fire Marshal.